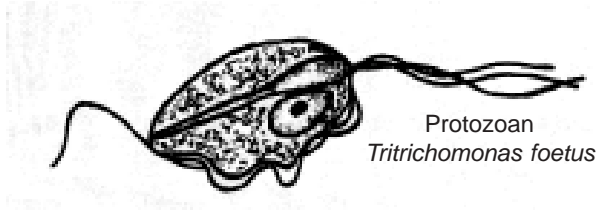


## What is Bovine Trichomonosis?

Bovine trichomonosis is a venereal disease of cattle caused by a protozoan called *Tritrichomonas foetus*. This organism lives in the folds of the penis and internal sheath in bulls, and it colonizes the vagina, cervix, uterus and oviducts in cows. Trichomonosis affects all cattle but is more commonly a problem among beef herds.



## New Trichomonosis Program

Trichomonosis is a serious economic threat to California's beef herds. In response to this issue, the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) and the Western United Dairymen jointly sponsored legislation for the development of programs to prevent and control cattle diseases such as trichomonosis.

The legislation allows the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to develop a Trichomonosis Program, in partnership with the livestock industry. The CCA drafted the California Bovine Trichomonosis Control Program and CDFA prepared regulations to support the program. The regulations became effective on **September 21, 2003**.



## California's Trichomonosis Program

Laws require that:

- Veterinarians, laboratories or owners report cases of trichomonosis to CDFA within 2 days of diagnosis
- Veterinarians complete a training program for sampling and handling trichomonosis specimens before doing **official** testing
- Positive samples require laboratory **confirmation** because false positive results can occur, particularly in young bulls raised in groups
- CDFA will investigate cases, quarantine infected cattle until slaughtered and notify owner(s) of potentially exposed cattle
- Bulls entering California need a negative trichomonosis test within the past 30 days unless entering for: artificial insemination purposes; pasture-to-pasture grazing; exhibition (must not commingle with other cattle); or going directly to slaughter
- Bulls sold within California are assumed to be infected with trichomonosis unless accompanied by an **official** negative trichomonosis test done within 30 days prior to sale. Signs informing buyers of this information will be posted in all California auction yards
- The CDFA Cattle Health Advisory Committee will review the program annually
- Failure to comply with the program is a violation punishable by a fine up to \$500.00 for each violation

The bovine Trichomonosis regulations are available at:  
<http://www.cdca.ca.gov/ahfss/regulations.htm>.

Lists of "Trichomonosis Approved" veterinarians and "Trichomonosis Approved" laboratories are available from CDFA.

If you would like additional information about testing your herd for trichomonosis, please contact your local veterinarian.

## Signs of Bovine Trichomonosis

The most common signs in an affected herd include:

- Repeat breeding
- Extended calving season
- Early abortion (too early to find a fetus)
- Occasional late-term abortions
- High percentage of open cows at pregnancy check (20-50 percent or more)
- Pyometra (pus-filled uterus) in about 1 percent of cows

Bulls do not show signs of trichomonosis.



## How Does Trichomonosis Spread?



A bull spreads trichomonosis from cow to cow during natural service. Bulls over 4 years of age are the main reservoir of

infection in a herd. In rare cases, infection is spread during artificial insemination with contaminated insemination equipment, semen or non-hygienic procedures.

## Can Trichomonosis be Treated?

- Bulls remain persistently infected and there is no approved treatment
- Most cows clear the infection within a few months, but a few may carry infection to calving
- Cows with pyometra may remain persistently infected

A vaccine for trichomonosis is available that:

- Helps cows and heifers clear the infection, but does not prevent infection
- Does not prevent infection or clear the disease in bulls



## Controlling Trichomonosis

The disease can be controlled by:

- Maintaining a closed herd
- Using separate breeding groups
- Using young virgin bulls
- Culturing bulls before the breeding season
- Using artificial insemination

If one or more bulls in your herd is found to be infected, you should immediately contact your veterinarian. Testing, culling, and vaccination can be used to help manage this disease.

## Important Phone Numbers

### California Department of Food and Agriculture Animal Health Branch

Headquarters	(916) 654-1447
Redding District	(530) 225-2140
Modesto District	(209) 491-9350
Tulare District	(559) 685-3500
Ontario District	(909) 947-4462

### California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratories

Davis	(530) 752-8700
Fresno	(559) 498-7740
Tulare	(559) 688-7543
San Bernardino	(909) 383-4287

### UC Davis Veterinary Medicine Extension

Davis	(530) 752-0853
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### California Cattlemen's Association

Sacramento	(916) 444-0845
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email: [www.calcattlemen.org](http://www.calcattlemen.org)

### United States Department of Agriculture Veterinary Services

Sacramento	(916) 857-6170
Toll Free	(877) 741-3690

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Developed by the State of California, Department of Food and Agriculture, Animal Health and Food Safety Services, Animal Health Branch, 1220 N Street, Room A-107, Sacramento, CA 95814. Telephone: (916) 654-1447. Or visit our Web site at [www.cdffa.ca.gov](http://www.cdffa.ca.gov).

Additional formats available upon request.

October 2003

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## Animal Health and Food Safety Services

# Trichomonosis Program In California

## An Overview for Cattle Producers



2003